Projected demand of foodgrains by hte turn of Century

2735. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains (rice and wheat) projected to be produced during the year 1988;

(b) what is the projected demand of foodgrains by the turn of the Century; and

(c) what measures are being taken to meet the projected demand in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The foodgrains production target for 1988-89 has been fixed at 166.57 million tonnes.

(b) The foodgrains requirement by the year 2000 has been estimated around 240 million tonnes.

(c) The important measures being taken to increase the foodgrains production are as under:—

(i) Maximisation of productivity in assured areas such as rainfed areas with high rainfall and irrigated areas.

(ii) Timely, easy and adequate supply of agricultuaral inputs like seeds, fertilizers, implements, plant protection chemicals and credit, etc. inclusive of imparting improved technology.

(iii) Increasing the coverage of area under high yielding varieties with proper plans for production and distribution of sufficient seeds.

(iv) Implementation of the National Programmes on Crops like Special Rice Production Programme in the eastern States, National Pulses Development Programme, Special Foodgrains Production Programme and other programmes on resource management through Small and Marginal Farmers Programme and National Watershed Development Programme.

(v) Undertaking of several measures to reduce the impact of droughts and to stabilise production through pooling of resources from different on-going schemes including the poverty alleviation programmes and Central assistance for natural calamities.

(vi) Adoption of integrated plant protection measures

(vii) Increasing the intensity of cropping through double, multiple and inter-cropping.

(viii) Assuring remunerative prices for various food crops to the farmers and organisational support for sale of commoditjes at these prices.

Telecast of epic other than 'Ramayan' and 'Mahabharat'

2736. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to telecast any epic serial other than 'Ramayan' and 'Mahabharat'; and

(b) whether Government have received any proposal for telecast of 'SILAP PADHI-KARAM', a great epic in Tamil?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) At present, no such proposal is under consideration.

(b) A proposal for serialising 'SILAP PADHI-KARAM' as a sponsored programme was received on 20-7-88. Since Doordarshan had stopped acceptance of fresh proposals for sponsored serials with effect from 6.5.86, the said proposal was not registered for consideration. The producer has been advised to offer it when the scheme of Sponsored Programmes opens again.